

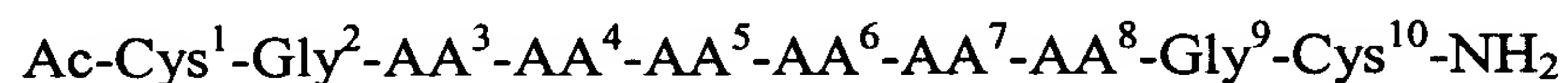
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

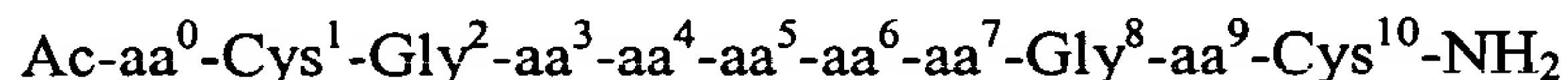
Claim 5 (Withdrawn) A peptide of 10 residues represented by the following amino acid sequence:



wherein Ac represents an acetyl group, AA<sup>3</sup> represents a polar amino acid residue, each of AA<sup>4</sup>, AA<sup>6</sup> and AA<sup>7</sup> represents a hydrophobic amino acid residue, AA<sup>5</sup> represents an amino acid residue having carboxyl or hydroxyl group in the side chain thereof, and AA<sup>8</sup> represents an arbitrary amino acid residue; said peptide having a disulfide linkage between the first and tenth cysteine residues; or a salt thereof.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn) A peptide or a salt thereof according to Claim 5, wherein AA<sup>3</sup> is an L-asparagine residue or an L-glutamine residue; AA<sup>4</sup>, AA<sup>6</sup> and AA<sup>7</sup> are an L-leucine residue, an L-isoleucine residue, an L-alanine residue or an L-valine residue; and AA<sup>5</sup> is an L-aspartic acid residue, an L-glutamic acid residue, an L-serine residue or an L-threonine residue.

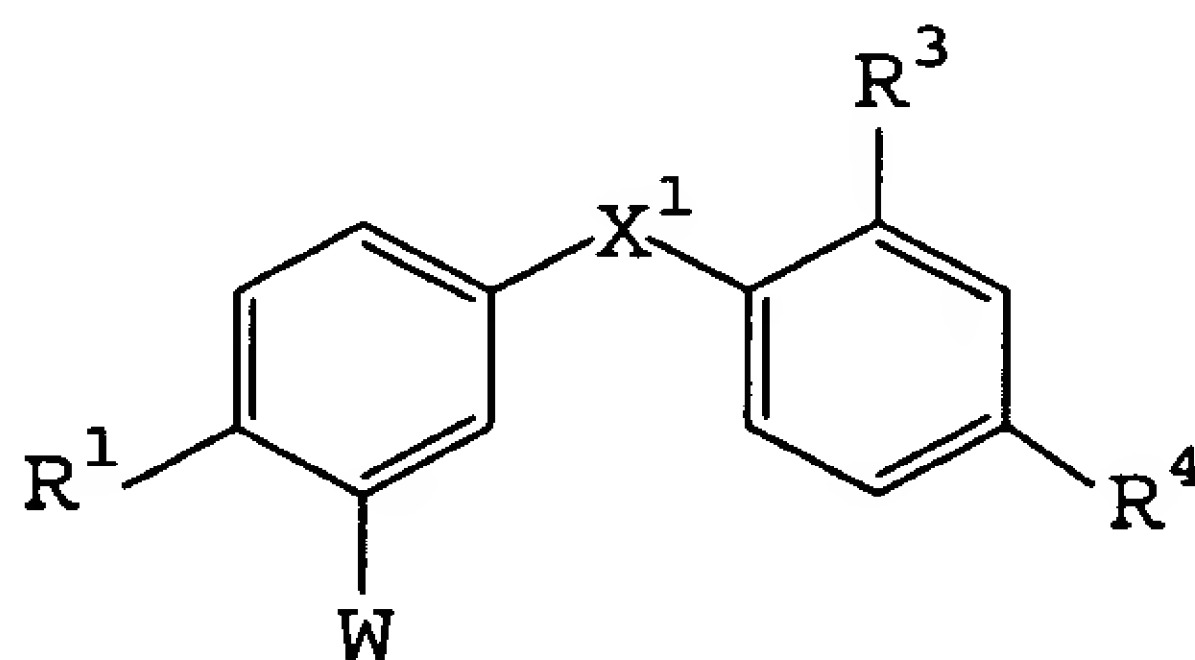
Claim 7 (Withdrawn) A peptide of 10 or 11 residues represented by the following amino acid sequence:



wherein Ac represents an acetyl group, aa<sup>0</sup> represents an arbitrary amino acid residue or a bonding unit, aa<sup>3</sup> represents a polar amino acid residue, each of aa<sup>4</sup>, aa<sup>5</sup> and aa<sup>7</sup> represents a hydrophobic amino acid residue, aa<sup>6</sup> represents an arbitrary amino acid residue, and aa<sup>9</sup> represents an amino acid residue having carboxyl or hydroxyl group in the side chain thereof; provided that, when aa<sup>0</sup> is a bonding unit, said peptide has a disulfide linkage between the first and tenth cysteine residues and, when aa<sup>0</sup> is an arbitrary amino acid residue, said peptide has a disulfide linkage between the second and eleventh cysteine residues; or a salt thereof.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn) A peptide or a salt thereof according to Claim 7, wherein aa<sup>3</sup> is an L-asparagine acid residue or an L-glutamine acid residue; aa<sup>4</sup>, aa<sup>5</sup> and aa<sup>7</sup> are an L-leucine residue, an L-isoleucine residue, an L-alanine residue or an L-valine residue; and aa<sup>9</sup> is an L-aspartic acid residue, an L-glutamic acid residue, an L-serine residue or an L-threonine residue.

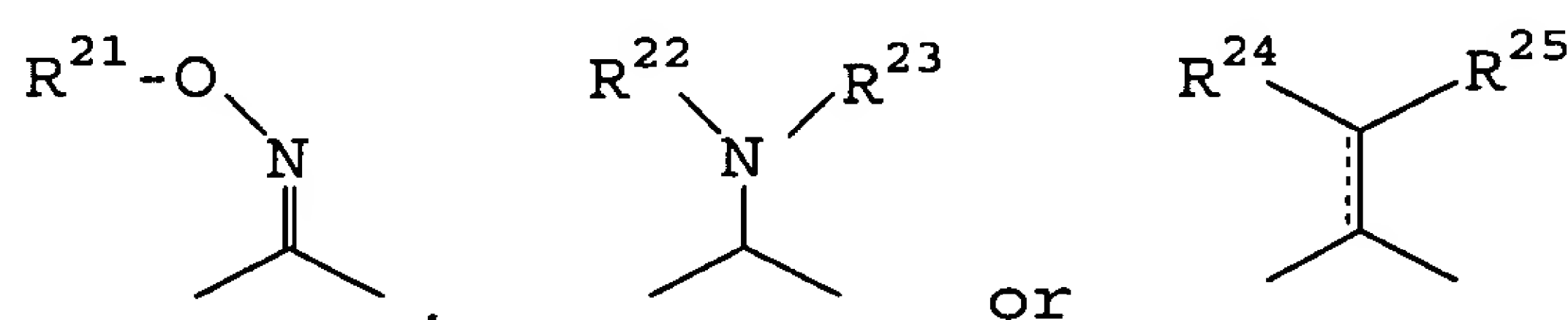
Claim 9 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl,

alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $R^3$  represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group, a carbamoyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $R^4$  represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;

$X^1$  represents  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-CH(OH)-$ ,  $-CH_2-$  or a group of the following formula:



wherein  $R^{21}$  represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl or heterocycle-lower alkyl group;  $R^{22}$  and  $R^{23}$  may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl or heterocyclic group; and  $R^{24}$  and  $R^{25}$  may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl,

alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; the double line of which one line is a broken line denotes a single bond or a double bond; and

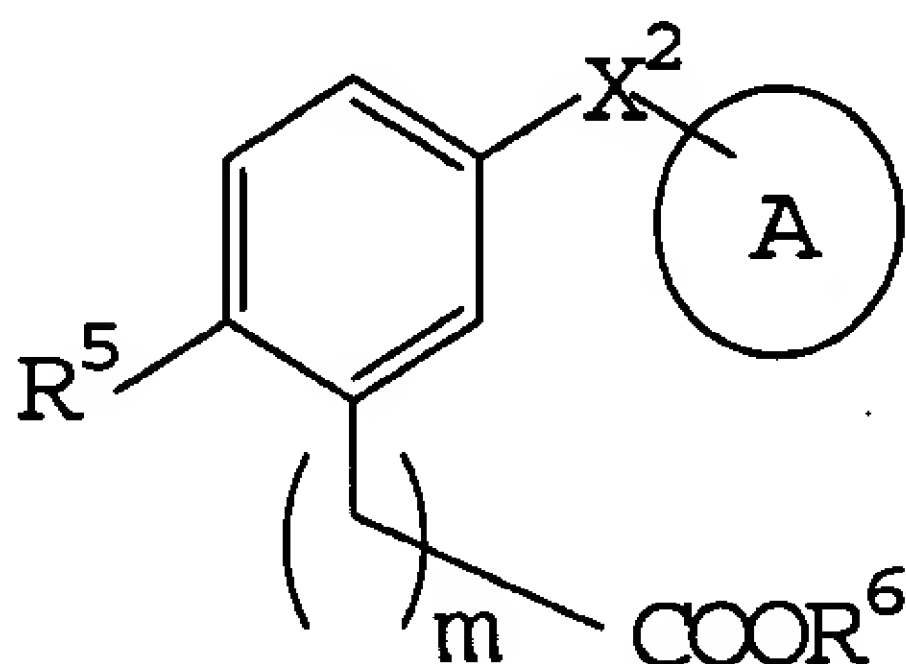
W represents  $-Z-COR^{26}$ ,  $-Z-COOR^2$ ,  $-O-CH_2COOR^2$  or  $-O-CH_2CH_2COOR^2$  {wherein Z represents  $-(CH_2)_n-$  in which n represents 0, 1, 2 or 3, with the proviso that when W is  $-Z-COOR^2$ , n can not be 1,  $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$ ,  $-CH=CH-$  or  $-CH_2CH=CH-$ ;  $R^2$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and  $R^{26}$  represents  $-NHR^{27}$  or  $-NHSO_2R^{28}$  in which  $R^{27}$  and  $R^{28}$  independently represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group};

or a salt thereof.

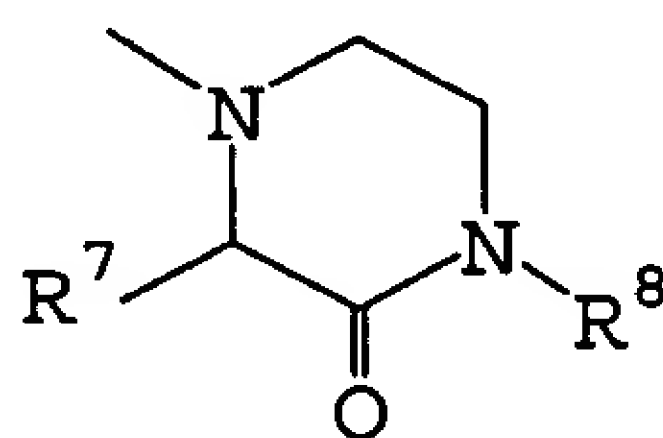
Claim 10 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 9, wherein W is  $-Z'-COOR^{2'}$ ,  $-Z'-CONH-SO_2R^{28'}$ ,  $-CONH-CH_2COOR^{2'}$  or  $-CONH-CH_2CH_2COOR^{2'}$  wherein Z' represents  $-(CH_2)_{n'}-$  in which n' is 0, 1 or 2, with the proviso that when W is  $-Z'-COOR^{2'}$ , n can not be 1, or  $-CH=CH-$ ;  $R^{28'}$  represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group; and  $R^{2'}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and  $X^1$  is  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-CH(OH)-$  or  $-CH_2-$ .

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 10, wherein  $R^1$  is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group;  $R^3$  is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; and  $R^4$  is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative represented by the following ~~general~~ formula:

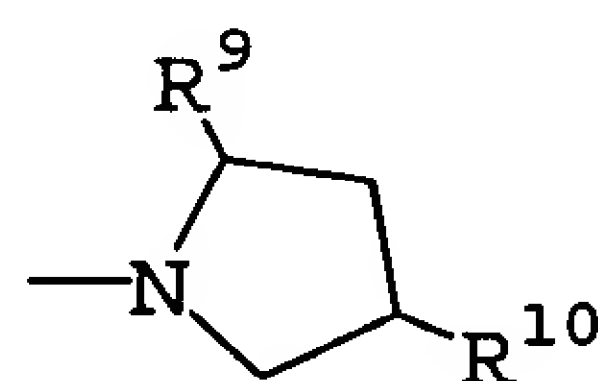


wherein  $R^5$  represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $R^6$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;  $X^2$  represents  $-C(O)-$ ;  $m$  represents 0, 1 or 2; and ring A represents a group represented by the following formula:



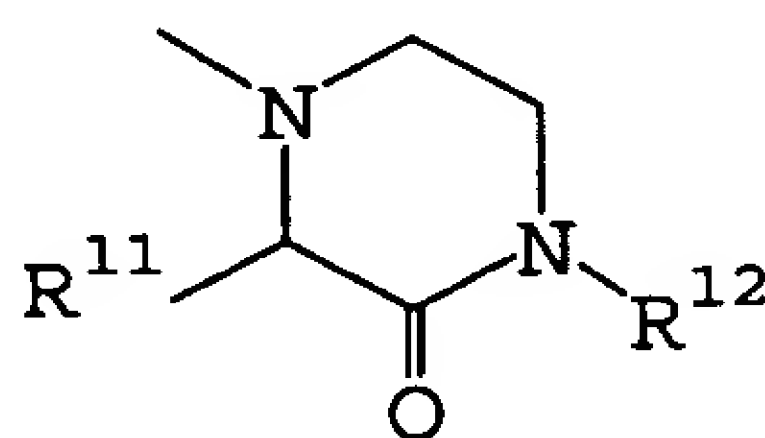
wherein  $R^7$  represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; and  $R^8$  represents a hydrogen atom, an unprotected or protected amino group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl,

alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; or a group of the following formula:



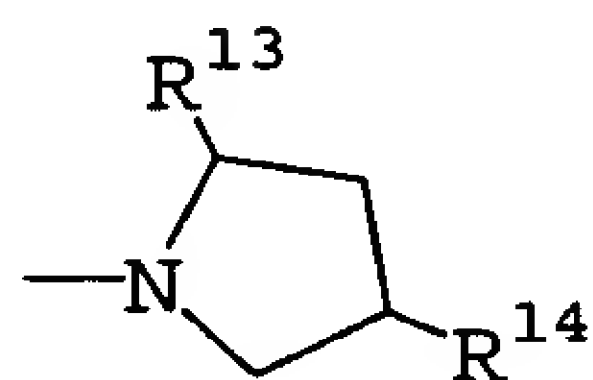
wherein  $R^9$  and  $R^{10}$  may be the same or different represent a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, alkanoyloxy or heterocyclic group; or a salt thereof.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 12, wherein  $R^5$  is an alkoxy group or an acylamino group;  $X^2$  is  $-C(O)-$ ; and ring A is a group of the following formula:



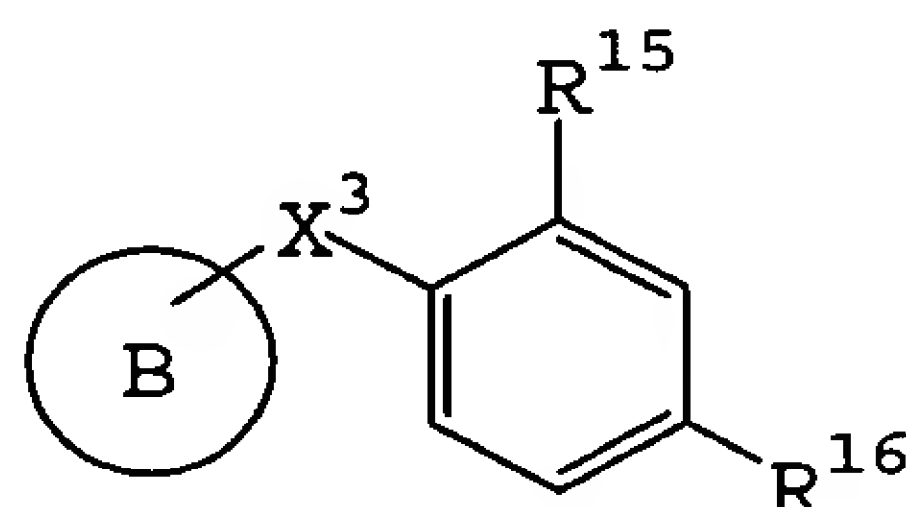
wherein  $R^{11}$  is an alkyl or alkoxycarbonyl group; and  $R^{12}$  is an alkyl group; or a group of the following formula:



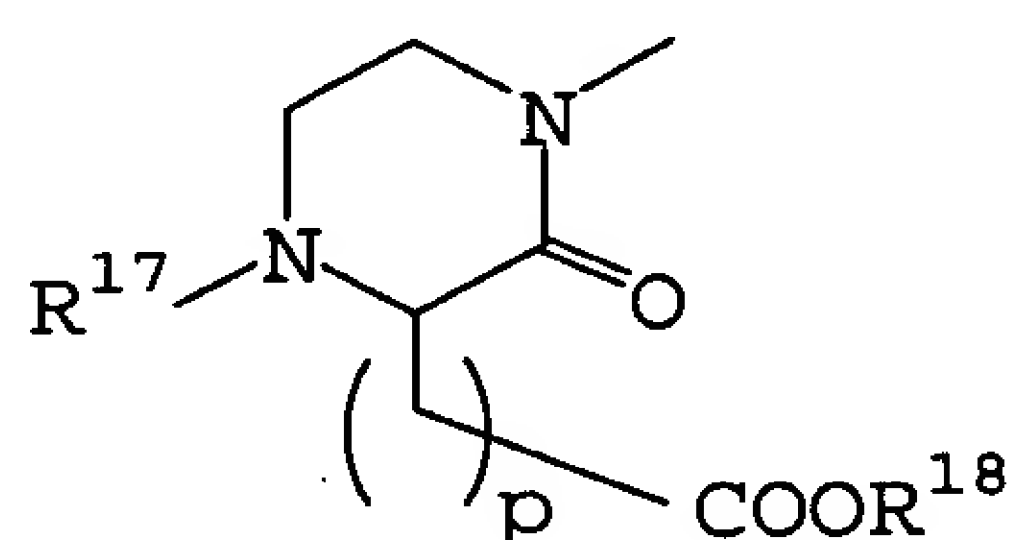


wherein  $R^{13}$  is an alkyl or alkoxycarbonyl group; and  $R^{14}$  is an alkoxy or alkanoyloxy group.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative represented by the following ~~general~~ formula:



wherein  $R^{15}$  and  $R^{16}$  may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $X^3$  represents  $-C(O)-$ ; and ring B represents a group of the following formula:



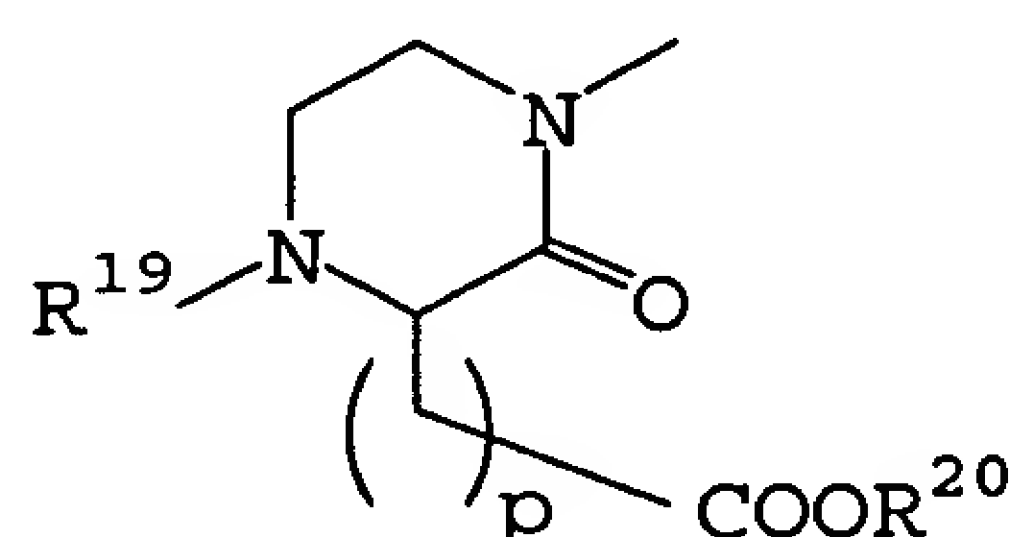
wherein  $R^{17}$  represents a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfonyl or

heterocyclic group;  $R^{18}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;

and  $p$  represents 0, 1 or 2;

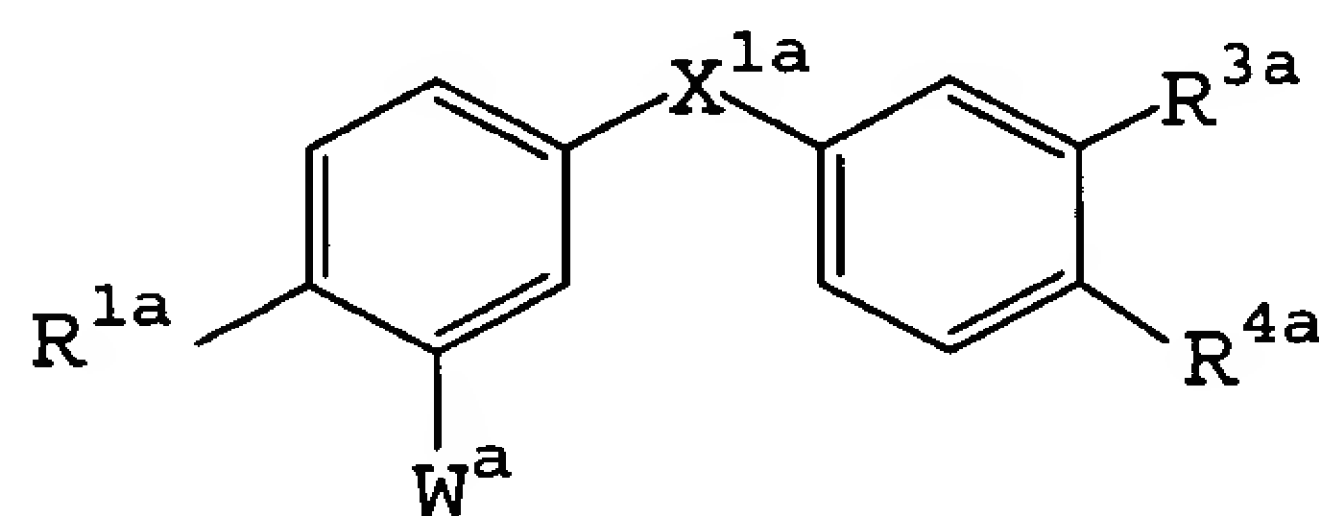
or a salt thereof.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 14, wherein  $R^{15}$  and  $R^{16}$  may be the same or different represent an alkoxy group; and ring B represents a group of the following formula:



wherein  $R^{19}$  is an acyl group;  $R^{20}$  is a protecting group for carboxyl group; and  $p$  is 0, 1 or 2.

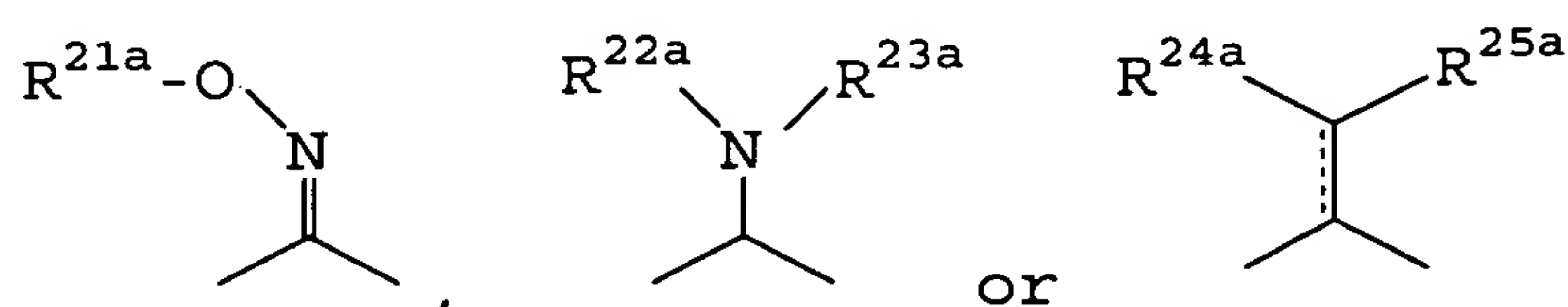
Claim 16 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein  $R^{1a}$  represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $R^{3a}$  and  $R^{4a}$  may be the same or different represent a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an



unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $X^{1a}$  represents  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-CH(OH)-$ ,  $-CH_2-$  or a group of the following formula:

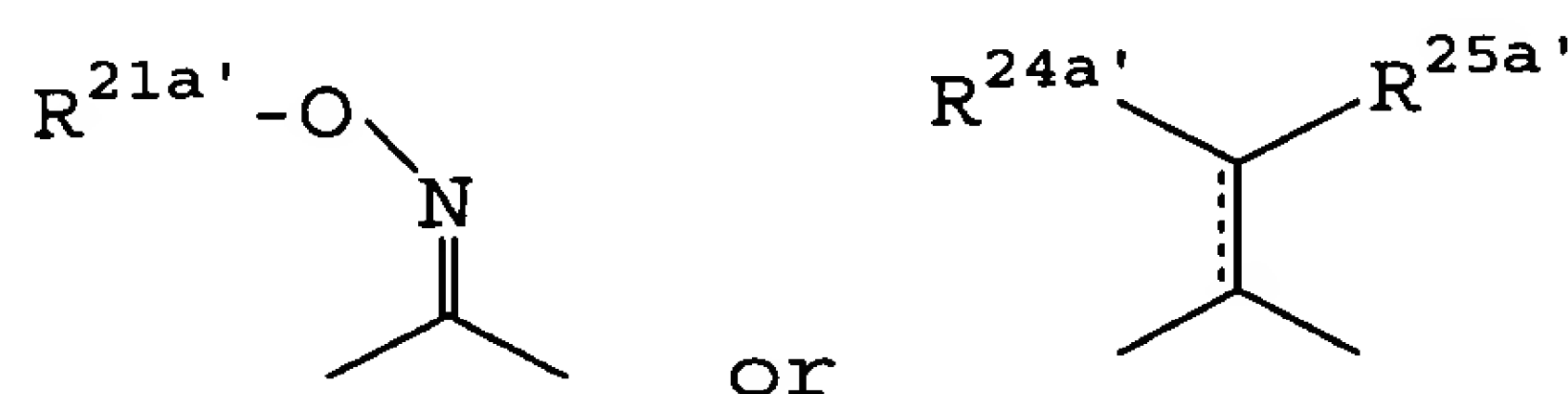


wherein  $R^{21a}$  represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl or heterocycle-lower alkyl group;  $R^{22a}$  and  $R^{23a}$  may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, carbamoyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl or heterocyclic group;  $R^{24a}$  and  $R^{25a}$  may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; and the double line of which one line is a broken line represents a single bond or a double bond; and  $W^a$  represents  $-Z^a-COR^{26a}$ ,  $-Z^a-COOR^{2a}$ ,  $-O-CH_2COOR^{2a}$  or  $-O-CH_2CH_2COOR^{2a}$  wherein  $Z^a$  represents  $-(CH_2)_n^a$  [(],  $n^a$  is 0, 1, 2 or 3)] with the proviso that when  $W^a$  is  $-Z^a-COOR^{2a}$ ,  $n^a$  can not be 1,  $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$ ,  $-CH=CH-$  or  $-CH_2CH=CH-$ ;  $R^{2a}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and  $R^{26a}$  represents  $-NHR^{27a}$  or  $-NHSO_2R^{28a}$  in which

$R^{27a}$  and  $R^{28a}$  independently represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group;

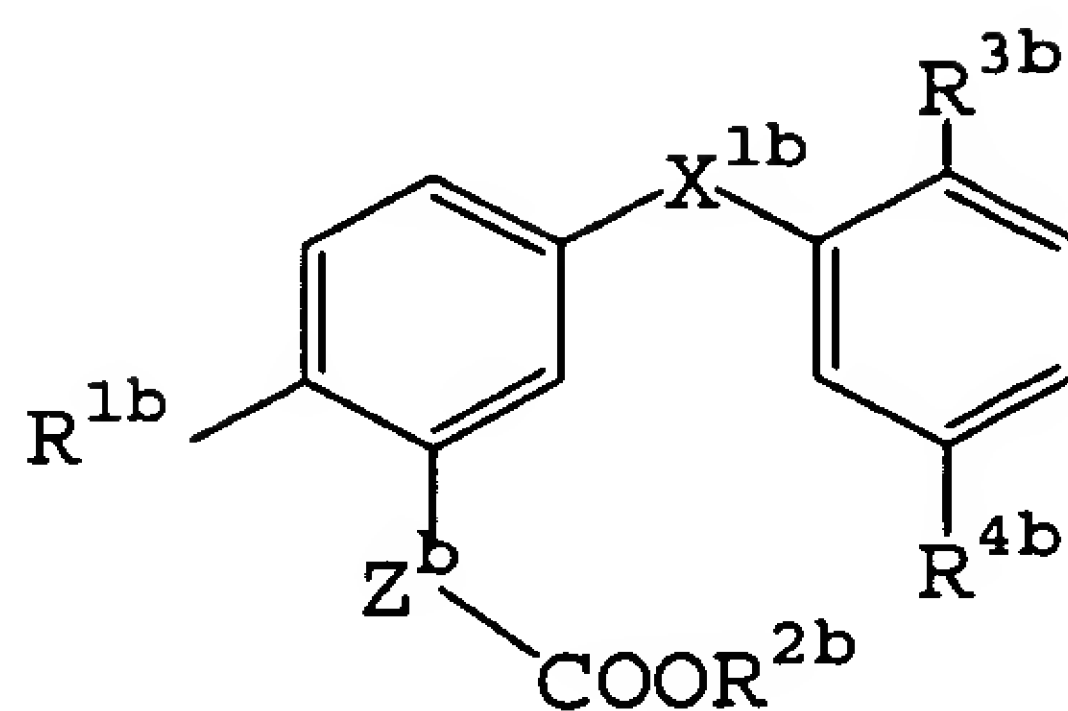
or a salt thereof.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 16, wherein  $R^{1a}$  is an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group;  $R^{3a}$  and  $R^{4a}$  may be the same or different and represent an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group;  $X^{1a}$  is  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-CH(OH)-$ ,  $-CH_2-$  or a group of the following formula:



wherein  $R^{21a'}$  represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, aralkyl or heterocycle-lower alkyl group;  $R^{24a'}$  and  $R^{25a'}$  may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkoxy carbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl or carbamoyl group; and  $W^a$  represents  $-Z^{a'}-COR^{26a'}$ ,  $-Z^{a'}-COOR^{2a'}$ ,  $-O-CH_2COOR^{2a'}$ ,  $-O-CH_2CH_2COOR^{2a'}$ ,  $-CONH-CH_2COOR^{2a'}$ , or  $-CONH-CH_2CH_2COOR^{2a'}$  wherein  $Z^{a'}$  represents  $-(CH_2)_{n^{a'}}-$  in which  $n^{a'}$  is 0, 1, 2 or 3 with the proviso that when  $W^a$  is  $-Z^{a'}-COOR^{2a'}$ ,  $n^{a'}$  can not be 1,  $-CH_2CH(CH_3)-$ ,  $-CH=CH-$  or  $-CH_2CH=CH-$ ;  $R^{2a'}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; and  $R^{26a'}$  represents  $-NHSO_2R^{28a'}$  in which  $R^{28a'}$  is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:

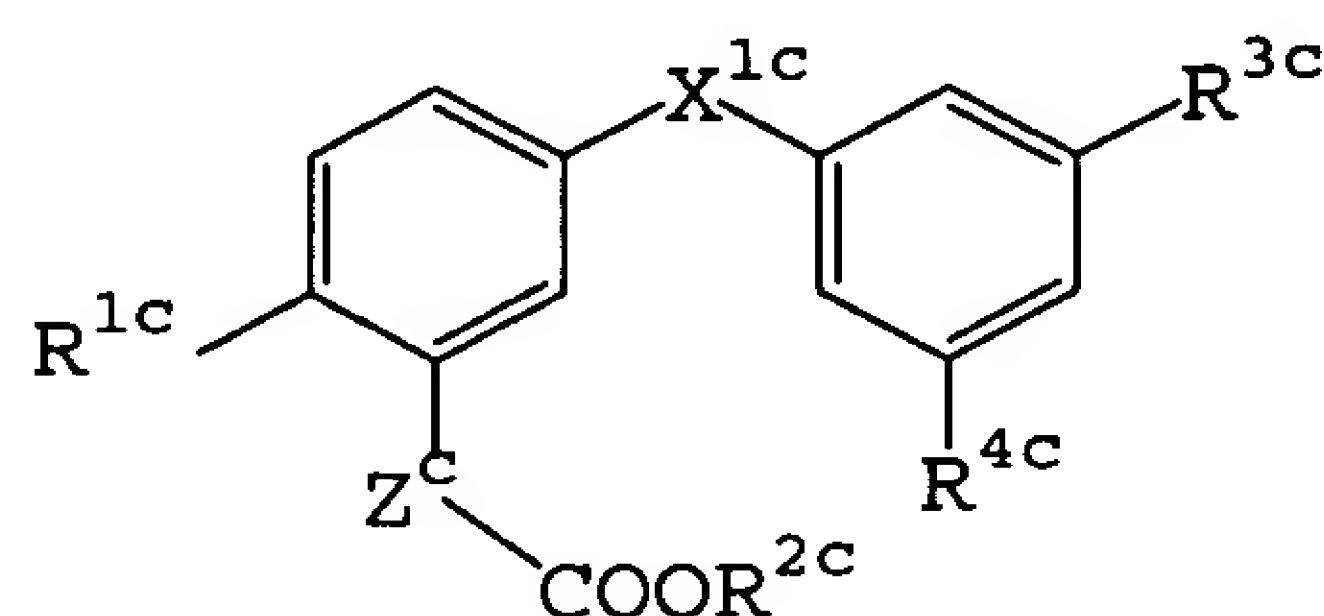


wherein R<sup>1b</sup> represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R<sup>2b</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R<sup>3b</sup> and R<sup>4b</sup> may be the same or different represent a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; X<sup>1b</sup> represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH<sub>2</sub>-; and Z<sup>b</sup> represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub><sup>b</sup>-, wherein [(n<sup>b</sup> represents 0[,] 1 or 2)] or -CH=CH-;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 19 (Original): A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 18, wherein R<sup>1b</sup> is an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R<sup>3b</sup> and R<sup>4b</sup> may be the same or different represent an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; X<sup>1b</sup> is -C(O)-; and Z<sup>b</sup> is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:

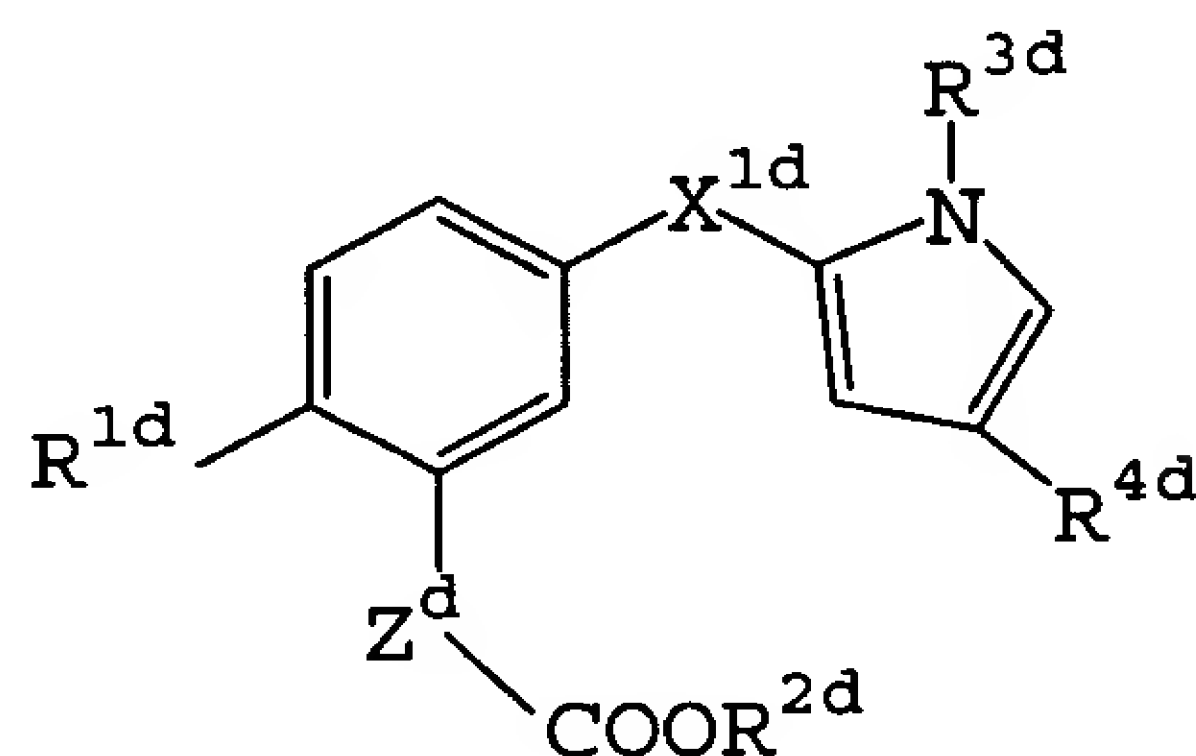


wherein  $\text{R}^{1c}$  represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $\text{R}^{2c}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;  $\text{R}^{3c}$  and  $\text{R}^{4c}$  may be the same or different represent a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $\text{X}^{1c}$  represents  $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$ ,  $-\text{CH}(\text{OH})-$  or  $-\text{CH}_2-$ ; and  $\text{Z}^c$  represents  $-(\text{CH}_2)_{n^c}-$ , wherein  $[(n^c \text{ represents } 0[, ] \text{ } 1 \text{ or } 2[)]$  or  $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}-$ ;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 21 (Original) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 20, wherein  $\text{R}^{1c}$  is an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group;  $\text{R}^{2c}$  is a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;  $\text{R}^{3c}$  and  $\text{R}^{4c}$  may be the same or different represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group;  $\text{X}^{1c}$  represents  $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$ ; and  $\text{Z}^c$  represents  $-(\text{CH}_2)_2-$ .

Claim 22 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following general formula:

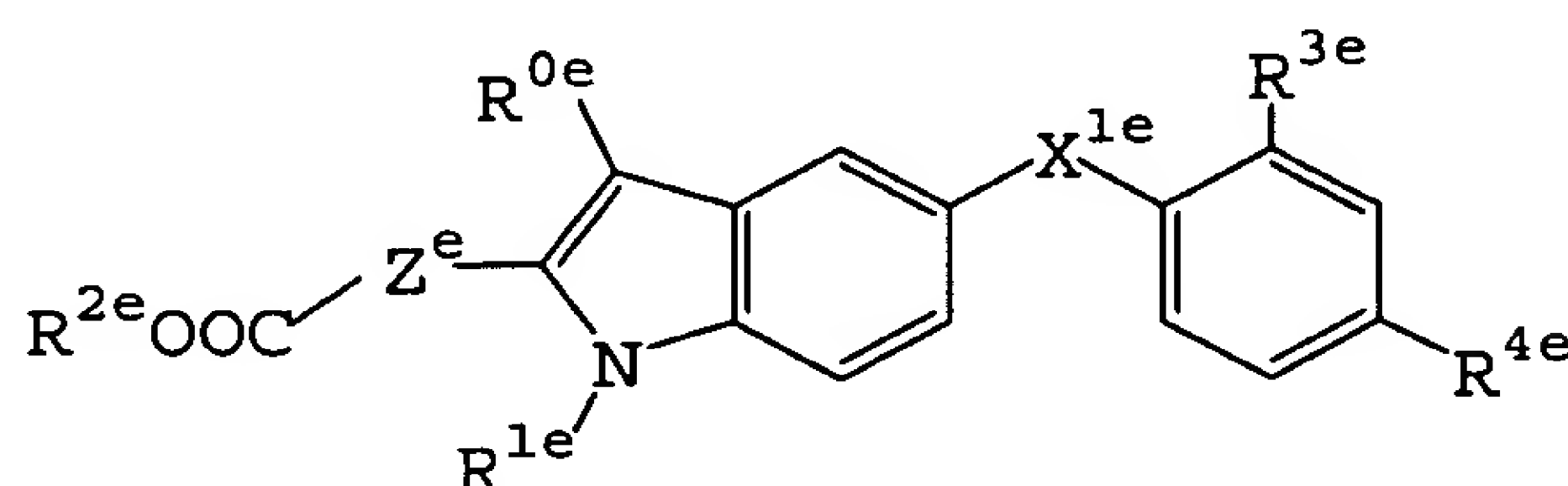


wherein R<sup>1d</sup> represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R<sup>2d</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R<sup>3d</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group; R<sup>4d</sup> represents a halogen atom, a nitro group, an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonylamino or arylsulfonylamino group; X<sup>1d</sup> represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH<sub>2</sub>-; and Z<sup>d</sup> represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>nd</sub> - (nd represents 0, 1 or 2) or -CH=CH-; or a salt thereof.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 22, wherein R<sup>1d</sup> is an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R<sup>3d</sup> is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group; R<sup>4d</sup> is an unsubstituted or substituted acyl group; X<sup>1d</sup> is -C(O)-; and Z<sup>d</sup> is -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>2</sub>-.



Claim 24 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following ~~general~~ formula:



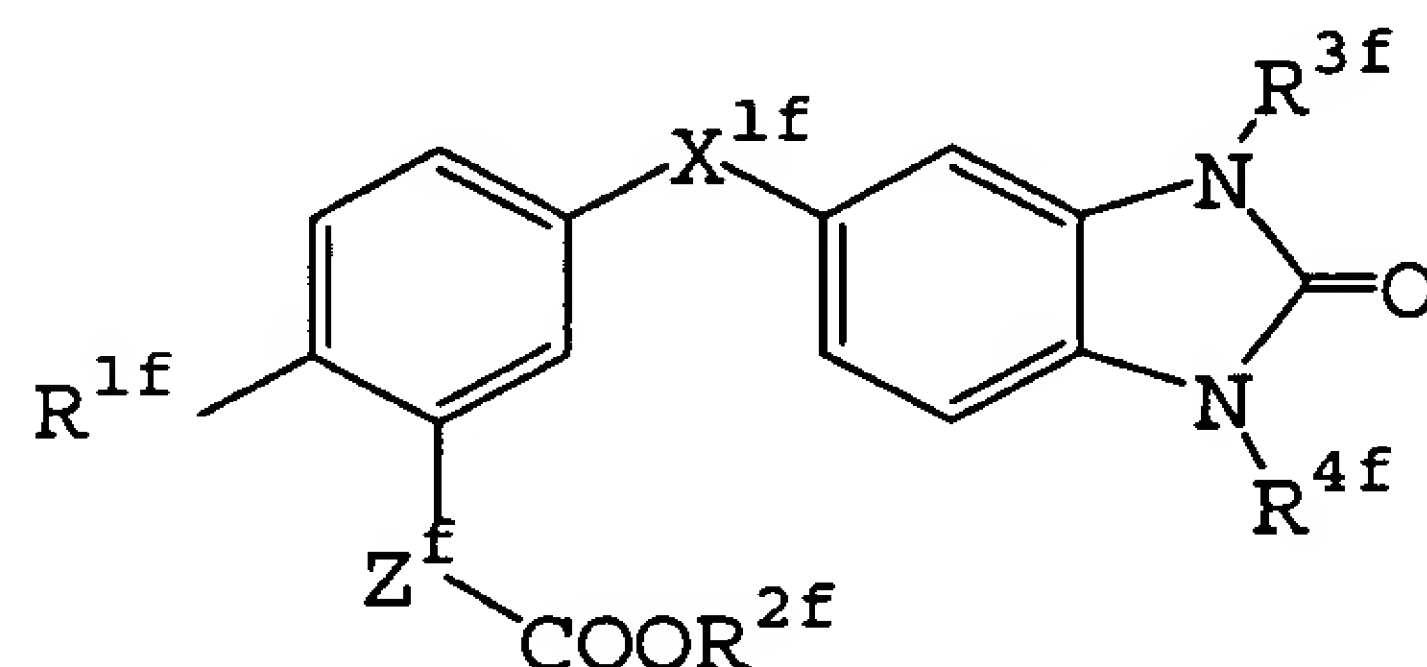
wherein  $R^{0e}$  represents a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a nitro group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl, alkylsulfonylamino or arylsulfonylamino group;  $R^{1e}$  represents an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxy carbonyl or alkylsulfonyl group;  $R^{2e}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;  $R^{3e}$  and  $R^{4e}$  may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylthio, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $X^{1e}$  represents  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-CH(OH)-$  or  $-CH_2-$ ; and  $Z^e$  represents  $-(CH_2)_{ne}-$  ( $ne$  represents 0, 1 or 2) or  $-CH=CH-$ ;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 24, wherein  $R^{0e}$  is a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom;  $R^{1e}$  is an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group;  $R^{3e}$  and  $R^{4e}$  independently represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group;  $X^{1e}$  is  $-C(O)-$ ; and  $Z^e$  is a bonding unit.



Claim 26 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative represented by the following ~~general~~ formula:

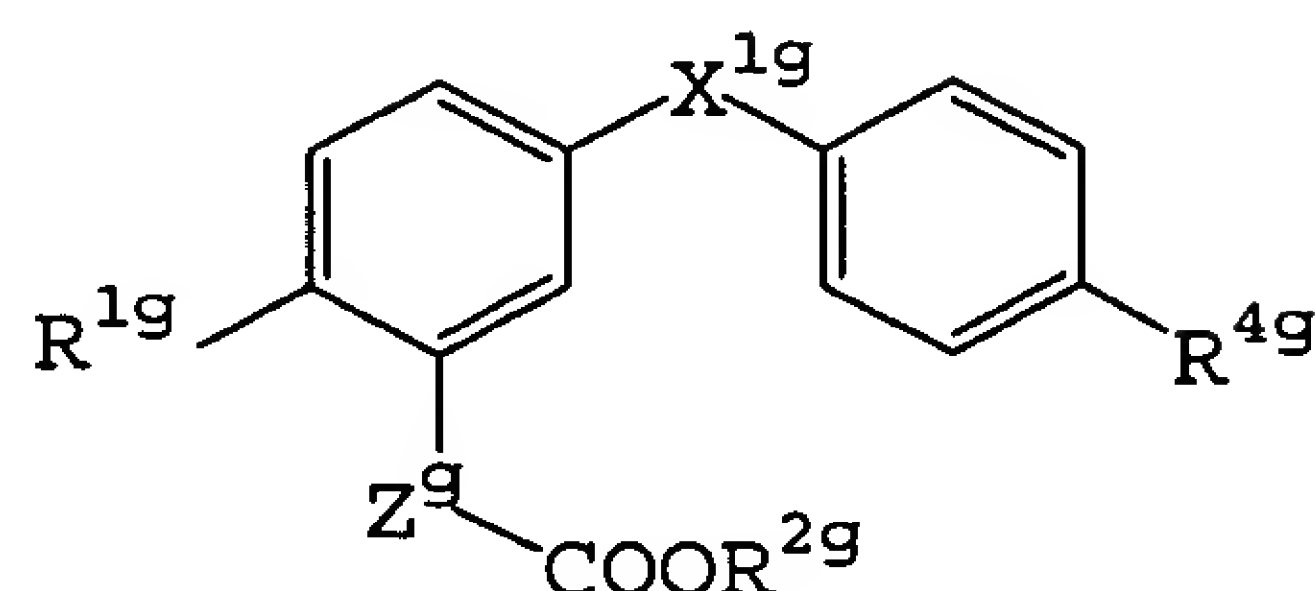


wherein R<sup>1f</sup> represents a halogen atom, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylthio, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group; R<sup>2f</sup> represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group; R<sup>3f</sup> and R<sup>4f</sup> may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group; X<sup>1f</sup> represents -C(O)-, -CH(OH)- or -CH<sub>2</sub>-; and Z<sup>f</sup> represents -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>nf</sub>- (nf represents 1 or 2) or -CH=CH-;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative or a salt thereof according to Claim 26, wherein R<sup>1f</sup> is an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group; R<sup>3f</sup> and R<sup>4f</sup> independently represent an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl group; X<sup>1f</sup> is -C(O)-; and Z<sup>f</sup> is -CH<sub>2</sub>-.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein  $R^{1g}$  and  $R^{4g}$  may be the same or different represent an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group;  $X^{1g}$  is  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-CH(OH)-$  or  $-CH_2-$ ;  $Z^g$  is  $-(CH_2)_n-$ , wherein  $n$  represents 1 or 2; and  $R^{2g}$  is a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;  
 or a salt thereof.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented) A compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9, wherein said compound is a compound that has an activity of antagonistically inhibiting the combination between AP-1 and a recognition sequence thereof.

Claim 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting AP-1 which comprises administering a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1.

Claim 32-34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Previously Presented) A compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9, wherein said compound is a compound that has an activity of antagonistically inhibiting the combination between AP-1 and a recognition sequence thereof.

Claim 36 (Canceled).

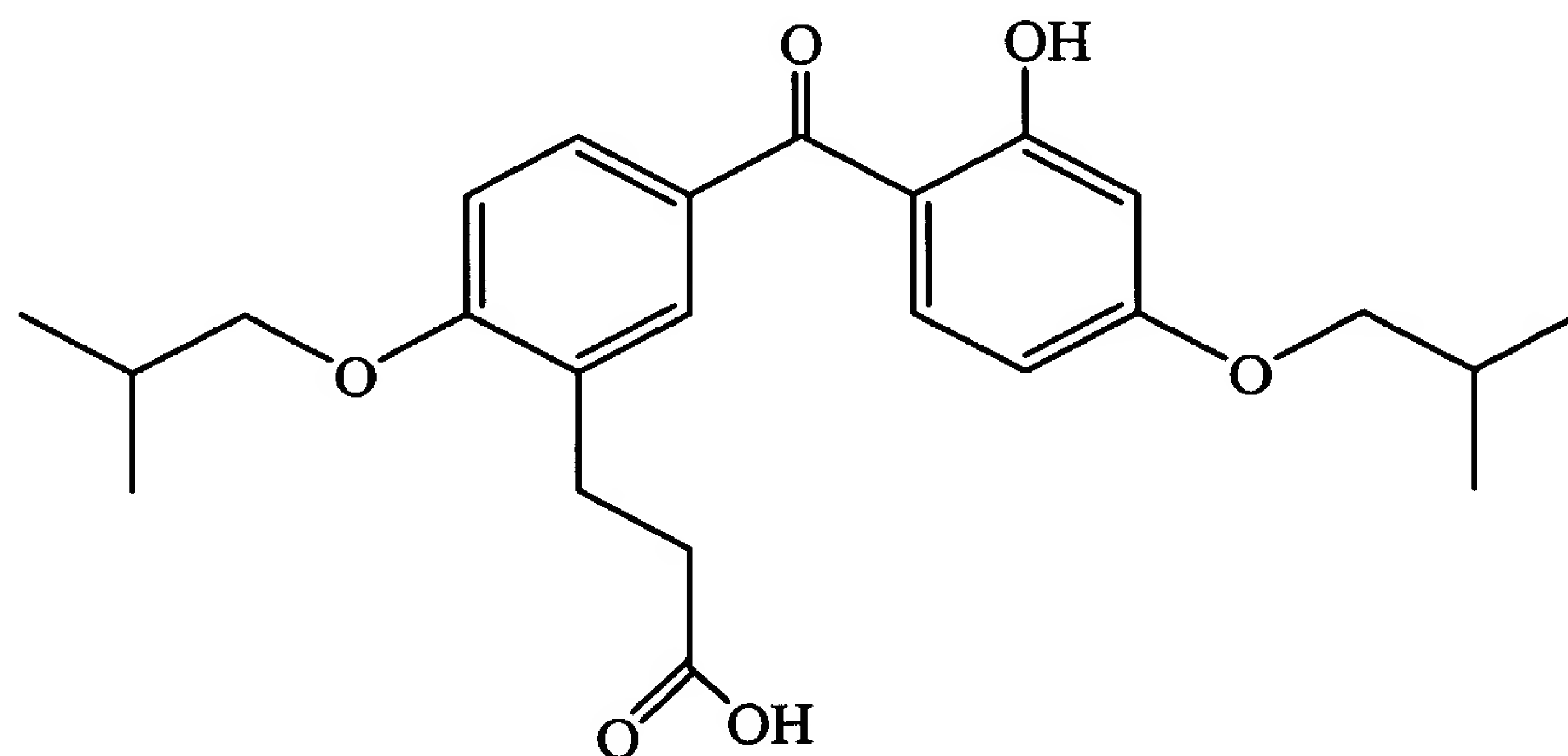
Claim 37 (Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting AP-1 which comprises administering a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented) An agent for preventing and treating a disease into which an excessive expression of AP-1 participates, which comprises a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9.

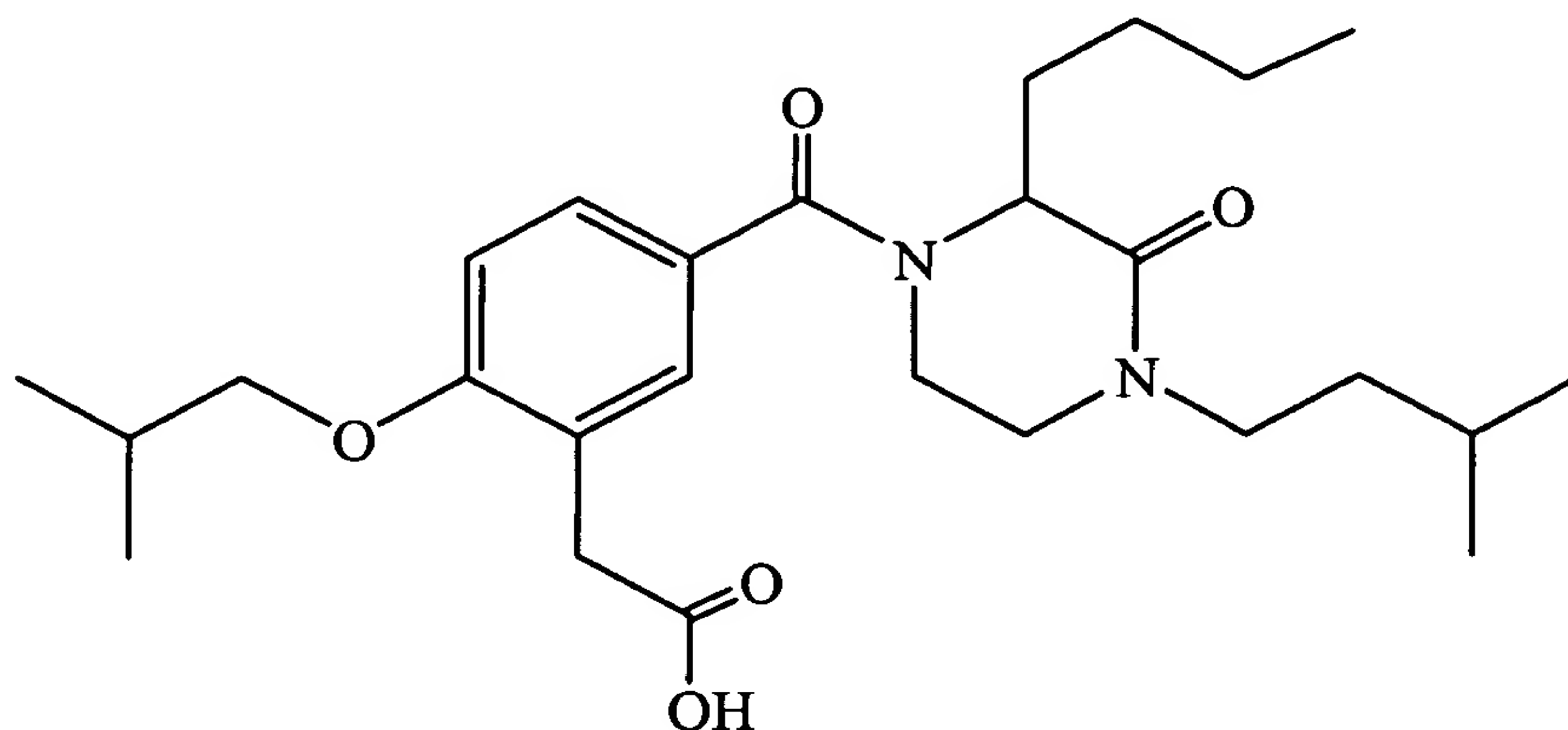
Claim 39 (Previously Presented) An agent for preventing and treating an autoimmune disease, which comprises a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented) An AP-1 inhibitor comprising a compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 9.

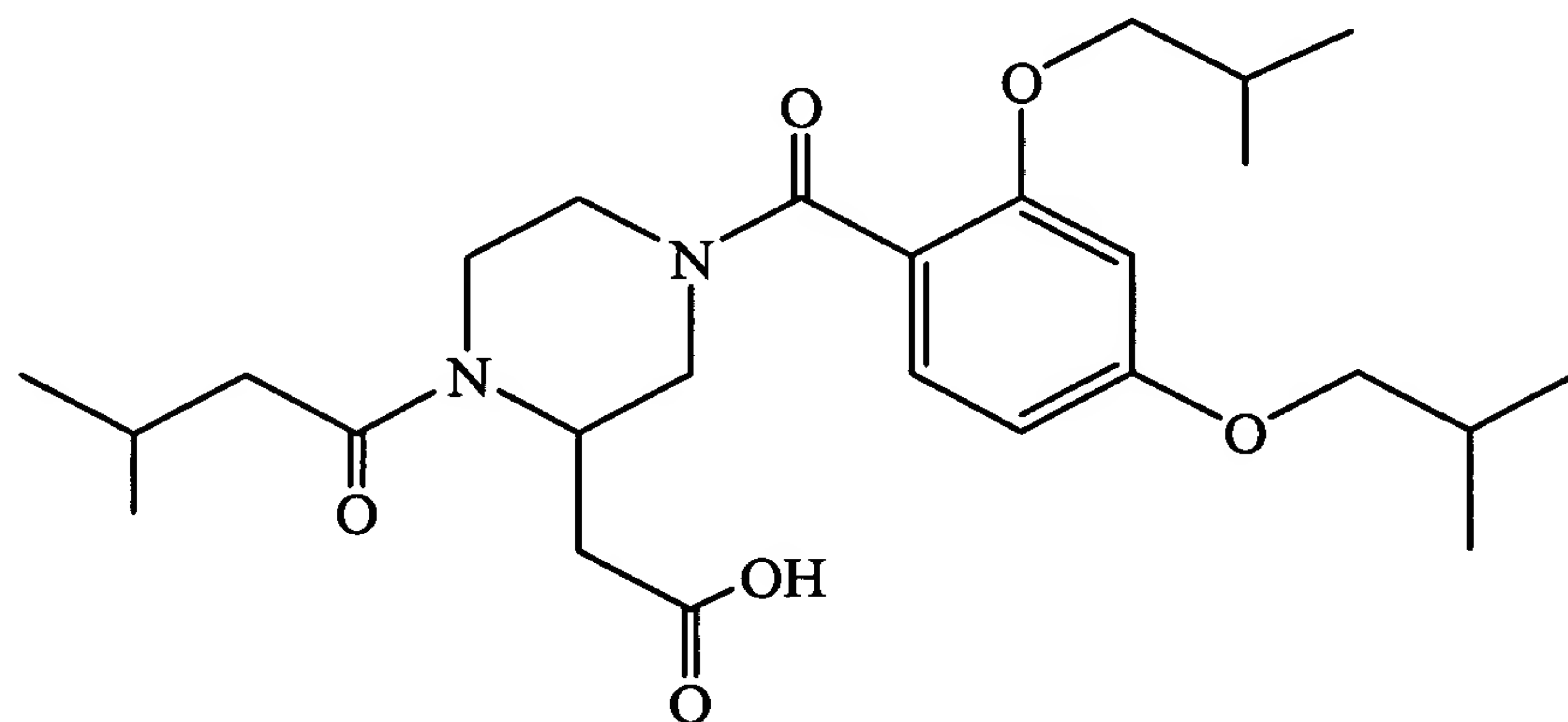
Claim 41 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative according to Claim 9, having the following formula:



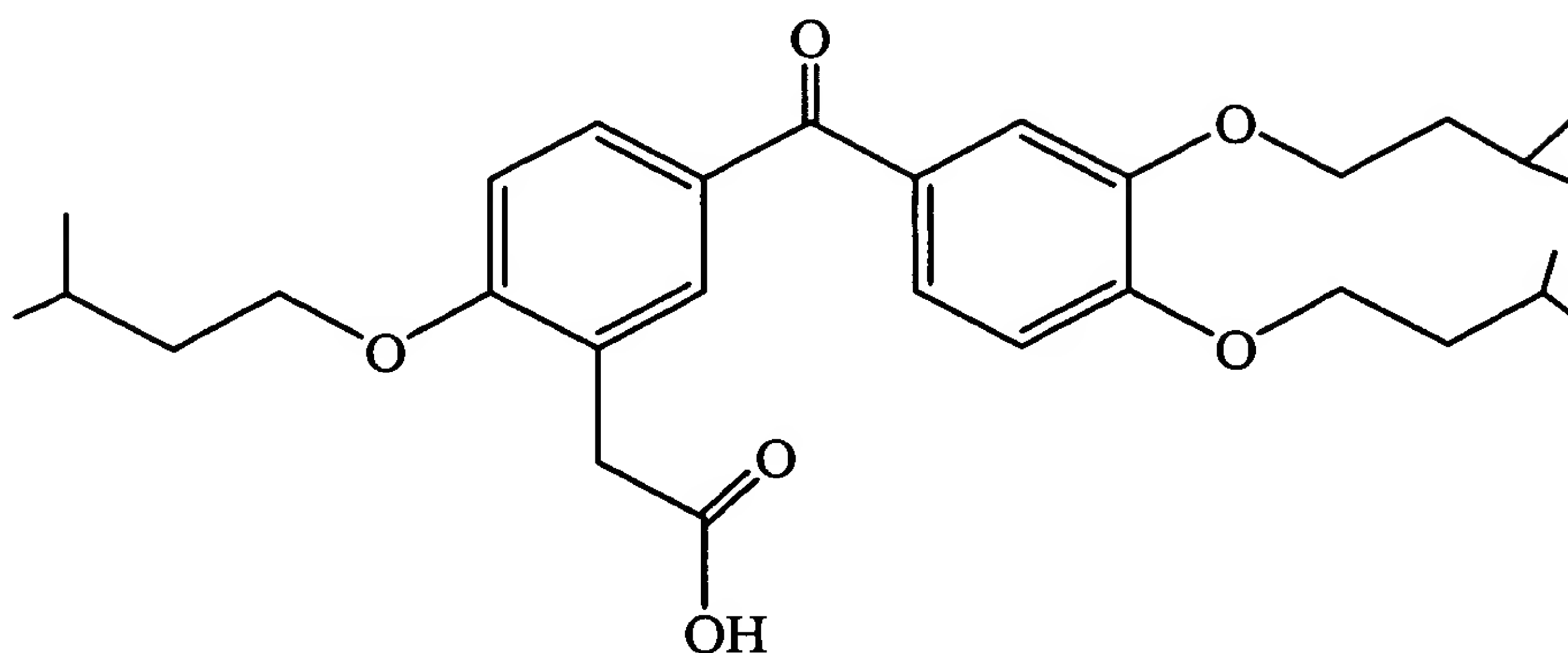
Claim 42 (Withdrawn) A benzene derivative according to Claim 12, having the following formula:



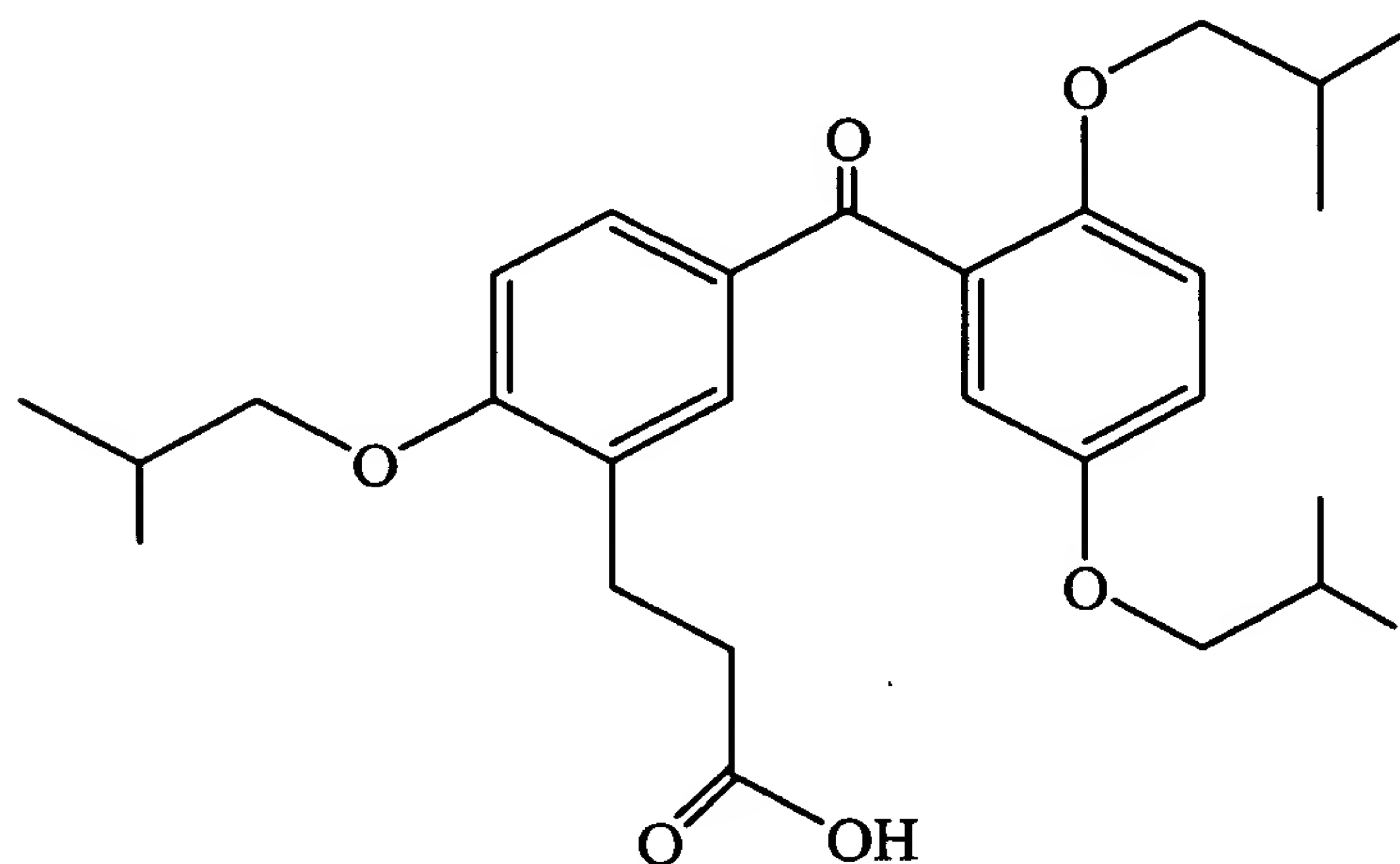
Claim 43 (Withdrawn) The benzene derivative according to Claim 14, having the following formula:



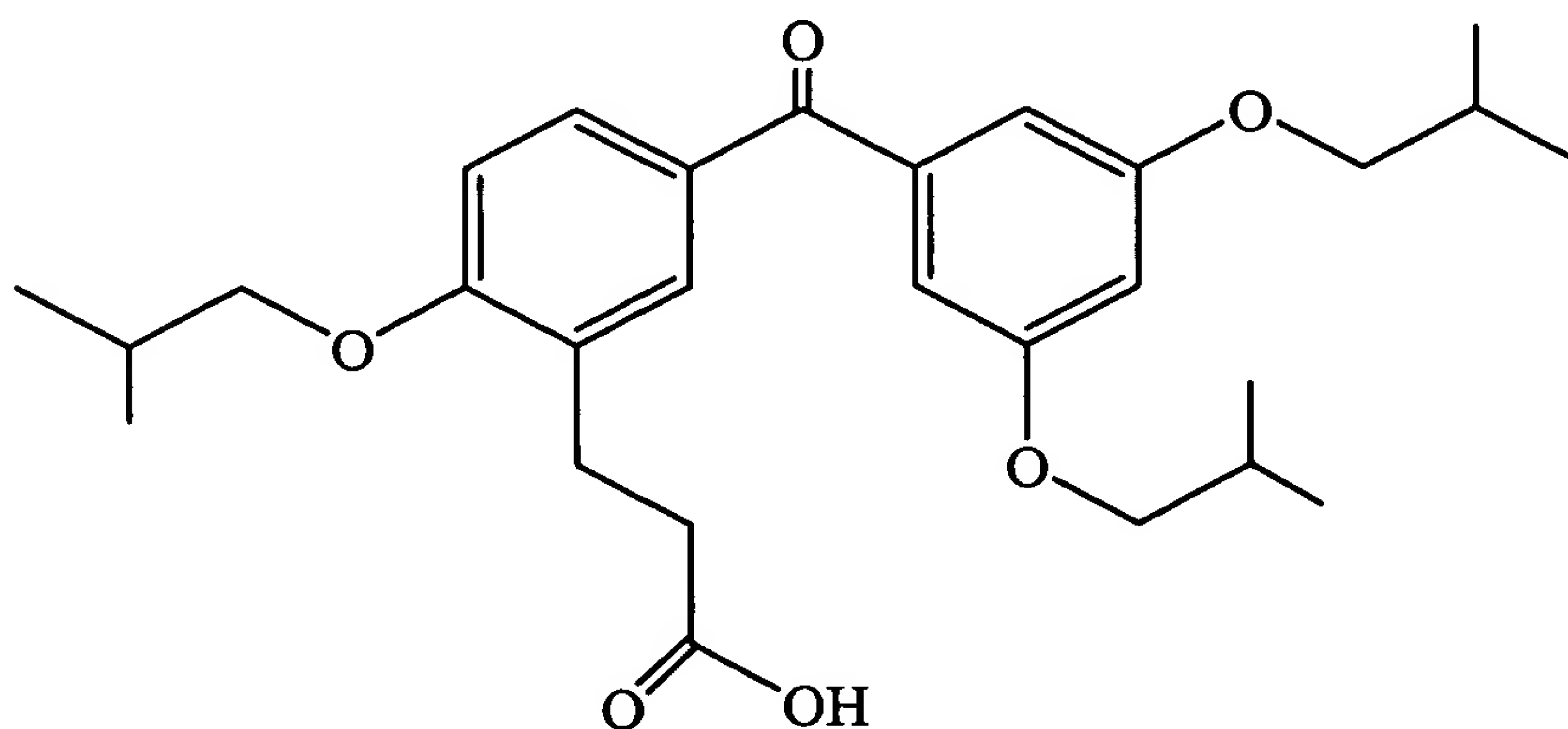
Claim 44 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative according to Claim 16, having the formula:



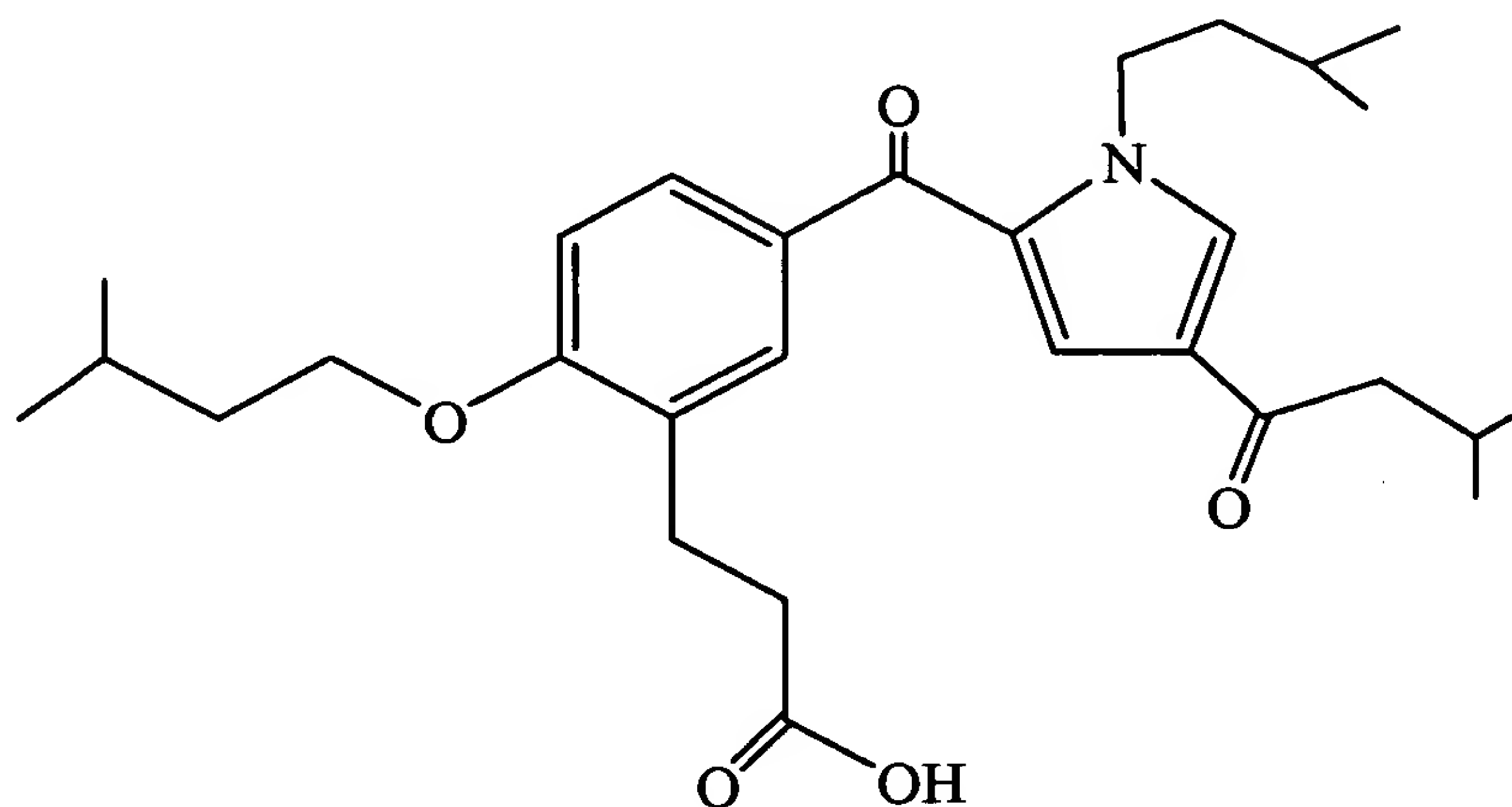
Claim 45 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative according to Claim 18, having the formula:



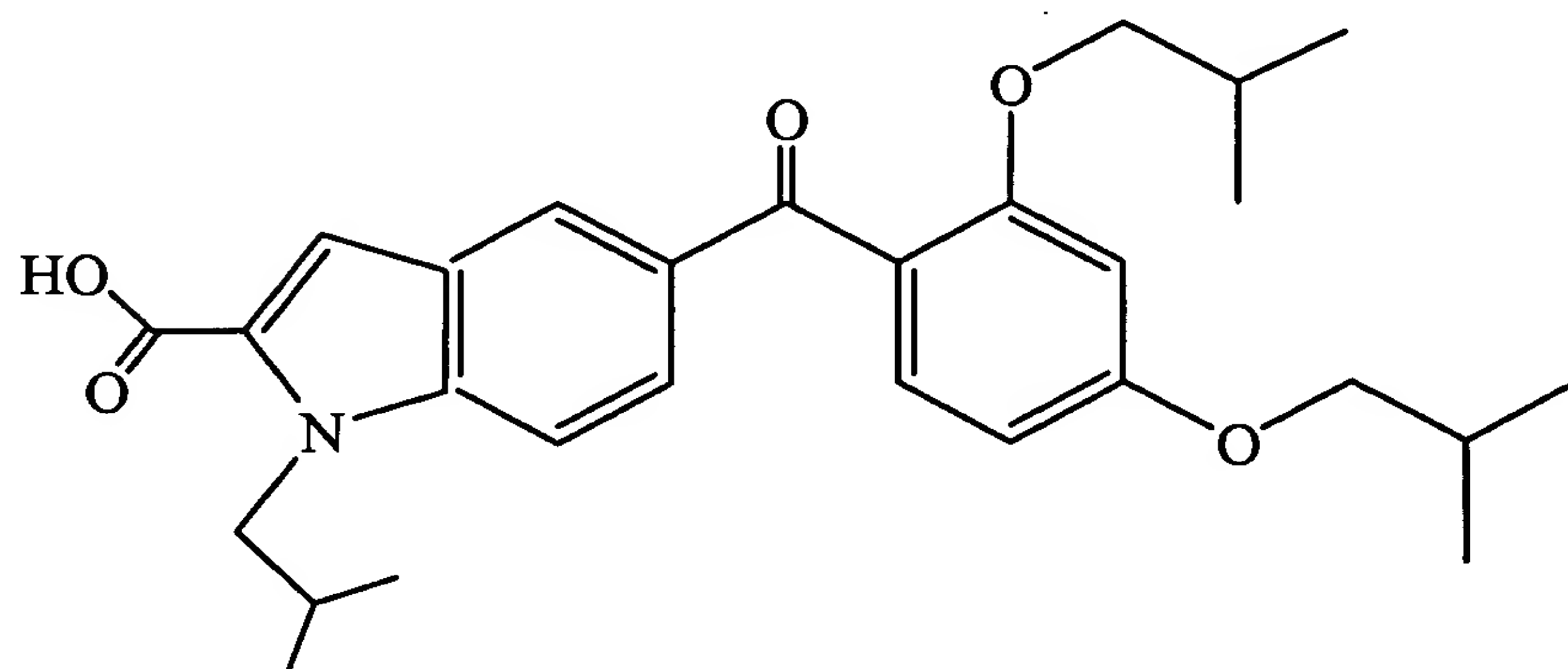
Claim 46 (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to Claim 20, having the formula:



Claim 47 (Withdrawn) The benzene derivative according to Claim 22, having the formula:

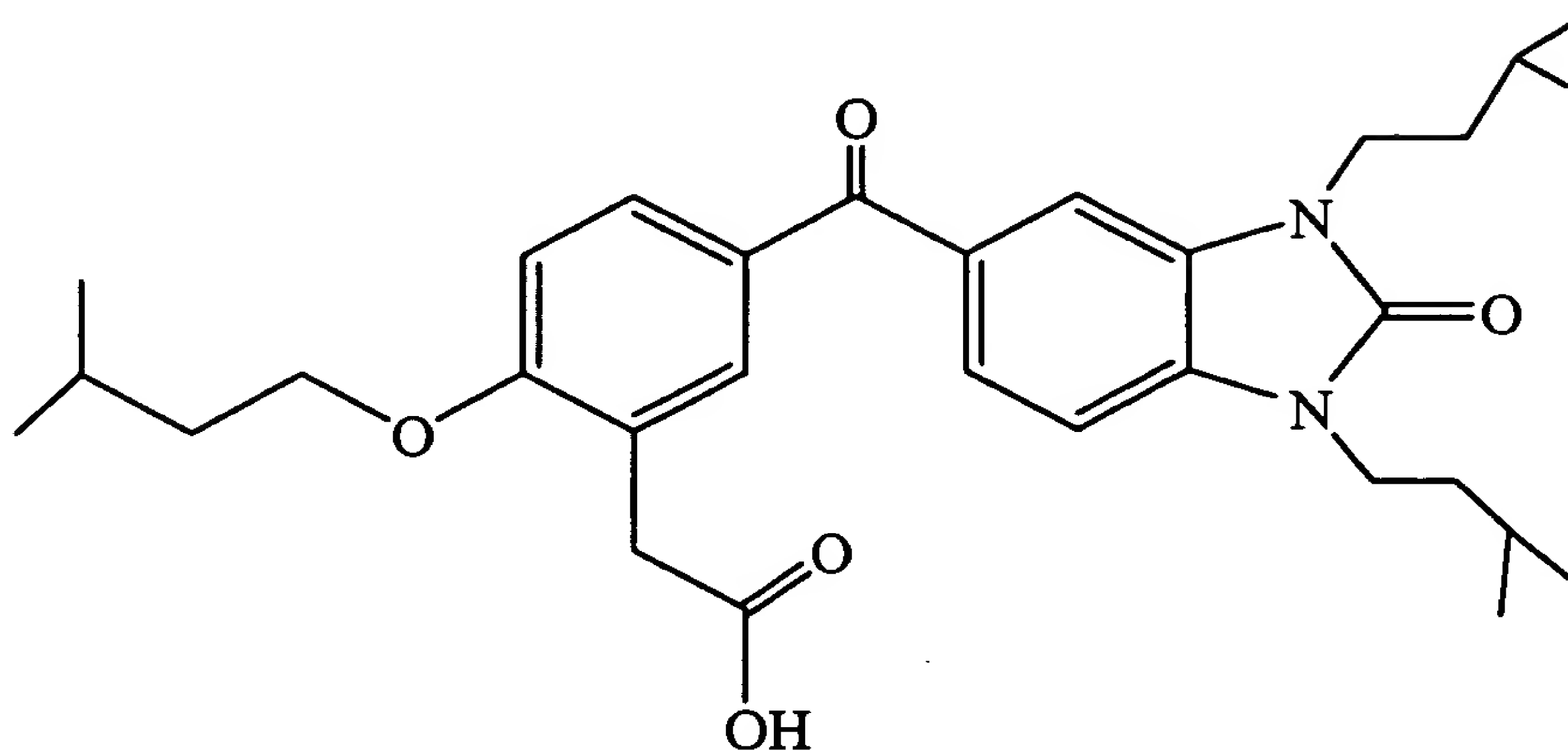


Claim 48 (Withdrawn) The benzene derivative according to Claim 24, having the formula:

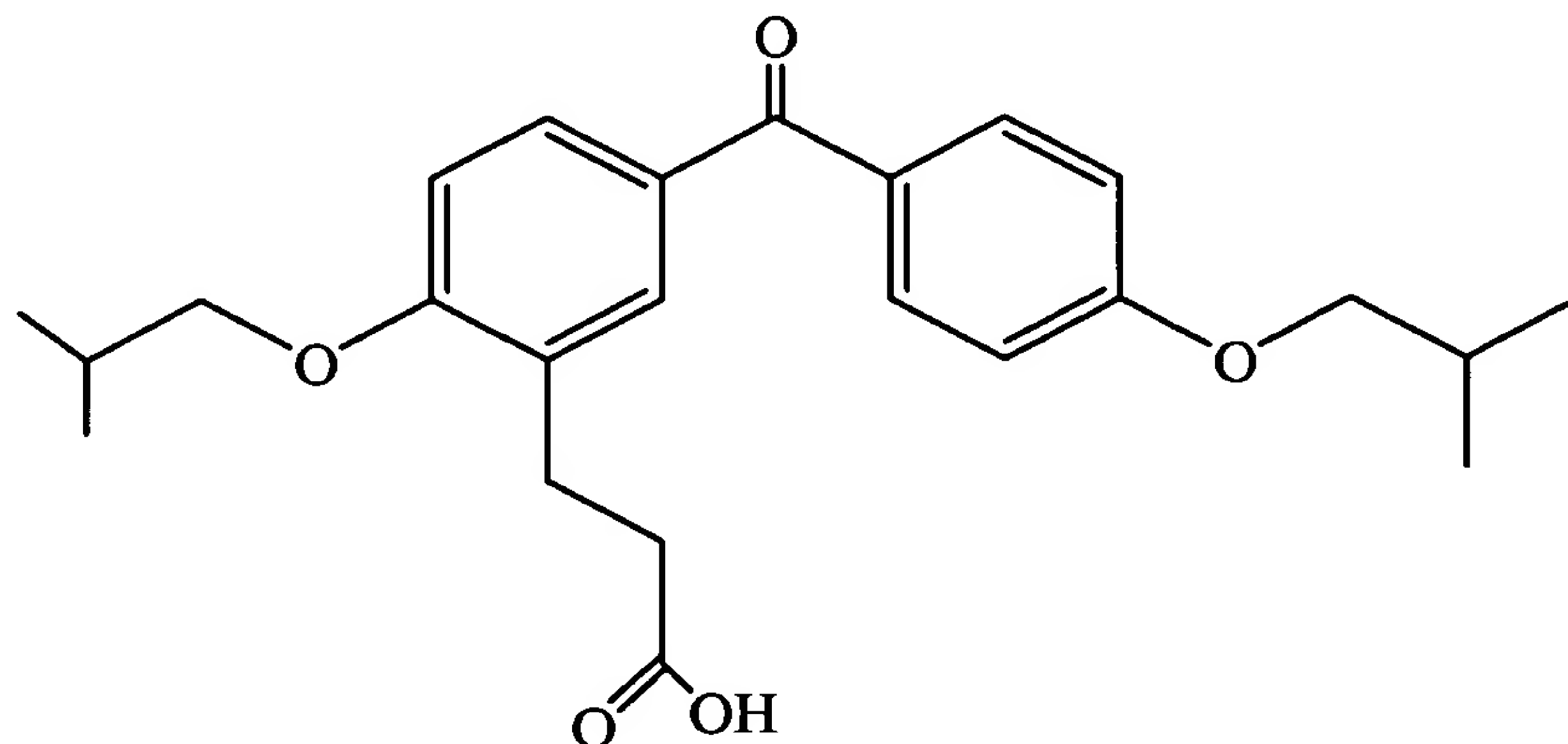


Claim 49 (Withdrawn) The benzene derivative according to Claim 26, having the formula:

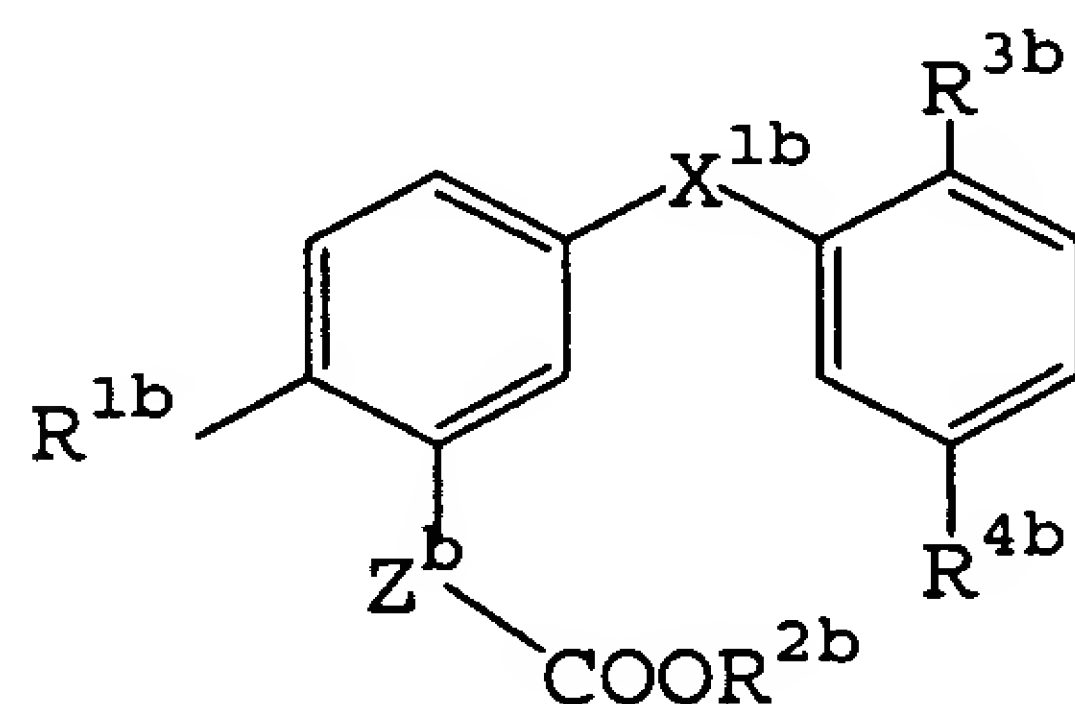




Claim 50 (Previously Presented) The benzene derivative according to Claim 28,  
 having the formula:



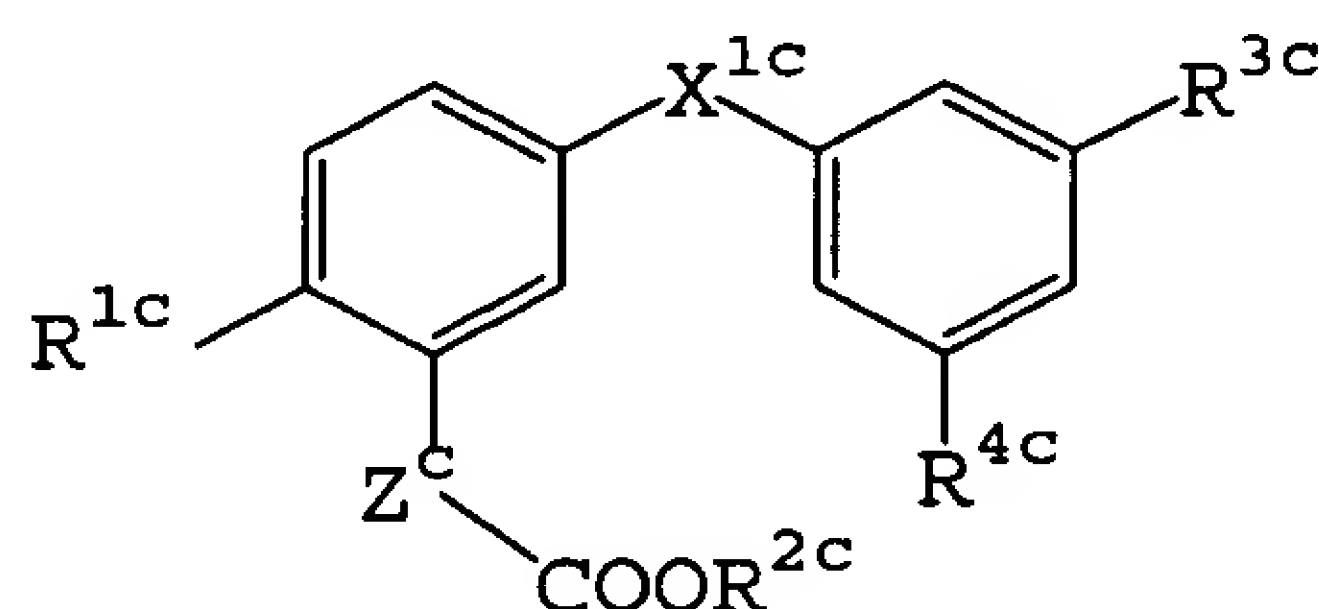
Claim 51 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative represented by the following  
 formula:



wherein  $R^{1b}$  represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $R^{2b}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;  $R^{3b}$  and  $R^{4b}$  may be the same or different represent a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $X^{1b}$  represents  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-CH(OH)-$  or  $-CH_2-$ ; and  $Z^b$  represents  $-(CH_2)_n^b-$  ( $n^b$  represents 0, 1 or 2) or  $-CH=CH-$ ;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:

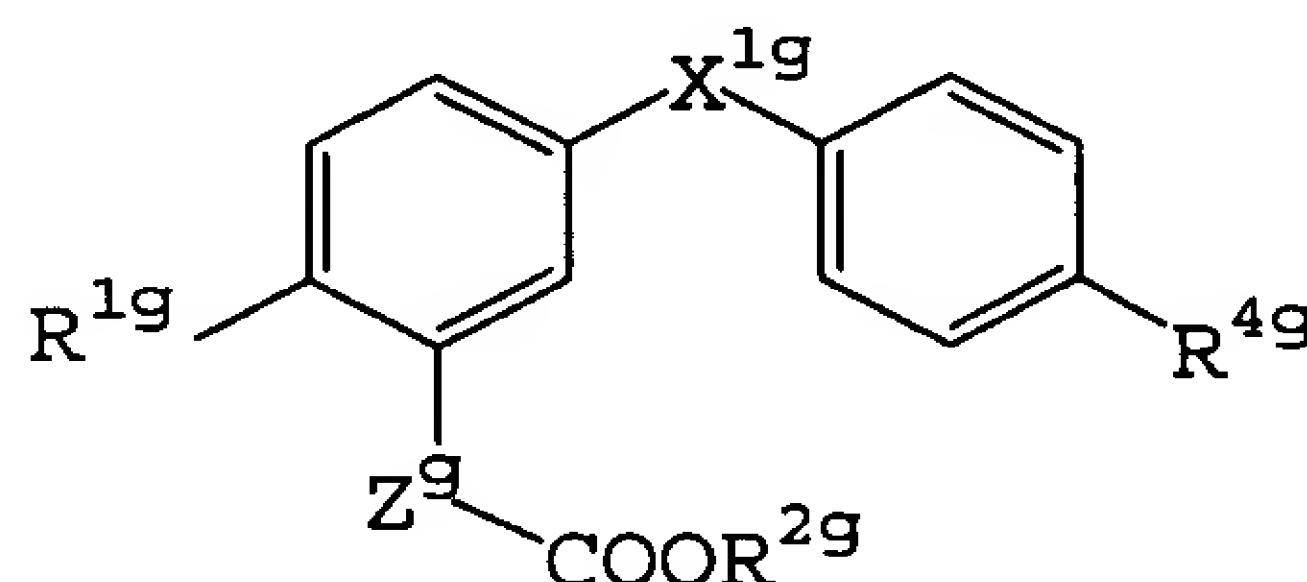


wherein  $R^{1c}$  represents a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, a protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino,

alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $R^{2c}$  represents a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;  $R^{3c}$  and  $R^{4c}$  may be the same or different represent a halogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, an unprotected or protected carboxyl group, an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group, an unprotected or protected amino group, a mercapto group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, alkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylamino, acylamino, alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino or heterocyclic group;  $X^{1c}$  represents  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-CH(OH)-$  or  $-CH_2-$ ; and  $Z^c$  represents  $-(CH_2)_{n^c}$  - ( $n^c$  represents 0, 1 or 2) or  $-CH=CH-$ ;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 53. (Previously Presented) A benzene derivative represented by the following formula:



wherein  $R^{1g}$  is a protected hydroxyl group and  $R^{4g}$  an unprotected or protected hydroxyl group or an unsubstituted or substituted alkoxy group;  $X^{1g}$  is  $-C(O)-$ ,  $-CH(OH)-$  or  $-CH_2-$ ;  $Z^g$  is  $-(CH_2)_{n^g}$  - ( $n^g$  represents 1 or 2); and  $R^{2g}$  is a hydrogen atom or a protecting group for carboxyl group;

or a salt thereof.